UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE DIVISION

| GSI TECHNOLOGY, INC., |) Case No. 5:13-cv-01081-PSG |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Plaintiff, v. |) OMNIBUS ORDER RE: MOTIONS) TO SEAL |
| UNITED MEMORIES, INC., et al., | (Re: Docket Nos. 768, 777, 784, 791) |
| Defendants. |))) |

Before the court are four motions to file seven documents under seal.¹ "Historically, courts have recognized a 'general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents." Accordingly, when considering a sealing request, "a 'strong presumption in favor of access' is the starting point." Parties seeking to seal judicial records

Case No. 5:13-cv-01081-PSG

OMNIBUS ORDER RE: MOTIONS TO SEAL

¹ See Docket Nos. 768, 777, 784, 791.

² Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 597 & n. 7 (1978)).

 $^{^3}$ Id. (quoting Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003)).

relating to dispositive motions bear the burden of overcoming the presumption with "compelling reasons" that outweigh the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure.⁴

However, "while protecting the public's interest in access to the courts, we must remain mindful of the parties' right to access those same courts upon terms which will not unduly harm their competitive interest." Records attached to nondispositive motions therefore are not subject to the strong presumption of access. Because the documents attached to nondispositive motions "are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action," parties moving to seal must meet the lower "good cause" standard of Rule 26(c). As with dispositive motions, the standard applicable to nondispositive motions requires a "particularized showing" that "specific prejudice or harm will result" if the information is disclosed. Broad allegations of harm, unsubstantiated by specific examples of articulated reasoning" will not suffice. A protective order sealing the documents during discovery may reflect the court's previous determination that good cause exists to keep the documents sealed, but a blanket protective order that allows the

⁴ *Id.* at 1178-79.

⁵ Apple Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., 727 F.3d 1214, 1228-29 (Fed. Cir. 2013).

⁶ See id. at 1180.

⁷ *Id.* at 1179 (internal quotations and citations omitted).

⁸ *Id*.

⁹ Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v. Gen. Motors Corp., 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002); see Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c).

¹⁰ Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int'l Ins. Co., 966 F.2d 470, 476 (9th Cir. 1992).

¹¹ See Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1179-80.

parties to designate confidential documents does not provide sufficient judicial scrutiny to determine whether each particular document should remain sealed.¹²

In addition to making particularized showings of good cause, parties moving to seal documents must comply with the procedures established by Civ. L.R. 79-5. Pursuant to Civ. L.R. 79-5(b), a sealing order is appropriate only upon a request that establishes the document is "sealable," or "privileged or protectable as a trade secret or otherwise entitled to protection under the law." "The request must be narrowly tailored to seek sealing only of sealable material, and must conform with Civil L.R. 79-5(d)." "Within 4 days of the filing of the Administrative Motion to File Under Seal, the Designating Party must file a declaration as required by subsection 79-5(d)(1)(A) establishing that all of the designated material is sealable." "14

With these standards in mind, the courts rules on the instant motion as follows:

| Motion | Document to be Sealed | Result | Reason/Explanation | |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Docket No. | UMI's Trial Brief | UNSEALED. | No declaration filed in support. | |
| 768-4 | | | | |
| Docket No. | GSI's Motion in Limine | Designations | Only sealed portions narrowly | |
| 777-4 | No. 6 to Exclude | highlighted in | tailored to confidential business | |
| | Evidence and Argument | yellow at | information and supported by a | |
| | of GSI's 2007 and 2008 | 2:12-14, | declaration. | |
| | Investigation of UMI | 4:13-15, | | |
| | | 4:21-26 SEALED; | | |
| | | remainder | | |
| | | UNSEALED. | | |
| Docket No. | May 8, 2015 Expert | Designations | Sealed portions previously | |
| 784-4 | Report of Robert J. | highlighted in | sealed by court order as | |

¹² See Civ. L.R. 79-5(d)(1)(A) ("Reference to a stipulation or protective order that allows a party to designate certain documents as confidential is not sufficient to establish that a document, or portions thereof, are sealable.").

¹³ Civ. L.R. 79-5(b). In part, Civ. L.R. 79-5(d) requires the submitting party to attach a "proposed order that is narrowly tailored to seal only the sealable material" which "lists in table format each document or portion thereof that is sought to be sealed," Civ. L.R. 79-5(d)(1)(b), and an "unreadacted version of the document" that indicates "by highlighting or other clear method, the portions of the document that have been omitted from the redacted version." Civ. L.R. 79-5(d)(1)(d).

¹⁴ Civ. L.R. 79-5(e)(1).

United States District Court For the Northern District of California

| | Murphy | yellow SEALED. | narrowly tailored to confidential business information. 15 |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Docket No. 784-6 | Deposition of Robert J. Murphy | UNSEALED. | No declaration filed in support. |
| Docket No. 791-2 | UMI's Omnibus Motion in Limine | UNSEALED | No declaration filed in support. |
| Docket No. 791-5 | Ex. 1 to UMI's Omnibus Motion in Limine, July 24, 2015 deposition of Paul Mphor Chiang | Designations specified at 209:4-210:17; 227:23-228:9; 229:13-23; 233:23-234:25; 235:9-12; 240:3-24; 241:25-242:6; 242:14-243:5; 244:8-245:8; 249:12-250:14; 252:10-14; 252:19-253:12; 258:7-259:20; 260:7-14; 261:10-17; 263:1-18; 267:7-15; 268:11-25; 269:9-270:13; 272:12-273:3; 283:23-284:17; 288:6-9; 293:9-15; 302:8-16; 335:17-336:10; 340:3-342:13 343:16-345:15; and 346:20-347:5 SEALED; remainder UNSEALED. | Only sealed portions narrowly tailored to confidential business information and supported by a declaration. |
| Docket No. 791-7 | Ex. 2 to UMI's Omnibus Motion in Limine, July 17, 2015 deposition of Robert J. Murphy | Designations specified at 134:22-135:4; 135:9-24; 136:1-4; 136:12-137:11; | Only sealed portions narrowly tailored to confidential business information and supported by a declaration. |

See Docket No. 740 at 15.

Case No. 5:13-cv-01081-PSG OMNIBUS ORDER RE: MOTIONS TO SEAL

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 138:22-139:4; | |
| 139:16-140:13; | |
| 150:2-151:9; | |
| 151:22-152:9; | |
| 154:7-9; | |
| 155:11-14; | |
| 156:8-16; | |
| 156:24-157:24; | |
| 160:10-162:5; | |
| 165:8-167:2; | |
| 168:5-22; | |
| 177:11-179:20; | |
| 182:13-184:5; | |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| 184:10-21; | |
| 185:1-16; | |
| 258:16-260:25; | |
| 338:1-24; | |
| 360:23-363:7; | |
| 364:18-365:11; and | |
| 368:5-368:25 | |
| SEALED; remainder | |
| UNSEALED. | |

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 1, 2015

PAUL S. GREWAL

United States Magistrate Judge

Case No. 5:13-cv-01081-PSG OMNIBUS ORDER RE: MOTIONS TO SEAL